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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/865,469	05/25/2001	Aubrey B. Poore JR.	CSUR.01USR1	3415
27479 7590 06/10/2009 COCHRAN FREUND & YOUNG LLC 2026 CARIBOU DR SUITE 201 FORT COLLINS, CO 80525			EXAMINER HELLNER, MARK	
			ART UNIT 3663	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/10/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/865,469

Applicant(s)

POORE, AUBREY B.

Examiner

Mark Hellner

Art Unit

3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3663

DETAILED ACTION

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the **conditions** and requirements **of this title**.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The MPEP 2106.02 states:

Claims to processes that do nothing more than solve mathematical problems or manipulate

abstract ideas or concepts are complex to analyze and are addressed herein. If the "acts" of a claimed process manipulate only numbers, abstract concepts or ideas, or signals representing any of the foregoing, the acts are not being applied to appropriate subject matter. *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 71 - 72, 175 USPQ 673,676 (1972). Thus, a process consisting solely of mathematical operations, i.e., converting one set of numbers into another set of numbers, does not manipulate appropriate subject matter and thus cannot constitute a statutory process. In practical terms, claims define nonstatutory processes if they:

consist solely of mathematical operations without some claimed practical application (i.e., executing a "mathematical algorithm"); or

simply manipulate abstract ideas, e.g., a bid (*Schrader*, 22 F.3d at 293-94, 30 USPQ2d at 1458-59) or a bubble hierarchy (*Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ2d at 1759), without some claimed practical application.

Claim 1 of the present application recites method steps that read on a computer algorithm for processing collected data. As a result, this claim may be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The test for a claim meeting the 35 USC 101 judicial exceptions is as follows:

A claimed invention is directed to a practical application of a 35 U.S.C. 101 judicial exception when it:

A)"transforms" an article or physical object to a different state or thing; or

B) otherwise produces a useful, concrete and tangible result, based on the factors discussed below.

To overcome the 35 USC 101 rejection, applicant is required to point out the limitations of claim 1 that meet either A or B above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 3 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 02/06/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is the Examiner's position that the limitations presented by claim one do not sufficiently tie recited method steps to a manipulation of an article or thing. To clarify the position, the examiner will compare key limitations of claim 1 (rejected) with claim 2 (allowed).

Claim one recites "repeatedly scanning a region containing a set consisting of one or more moving objects...

This limitation sets forth no positive structure for doing the scanning.

Claim two recites "using remote scanning apparatus to repeatedly scan a region containing a set consisting of one or more moveable objects...

Claim one recites "taking one or more of the following actions based on said optimal or near-optimal assignment of said plurality of points to said plurality of tracks:

Sending a warning to aircraft or a ground based or sea facility..."

No positive manipulation of structure is set forth to implement the recited actions, thus falling into the realm of a mental step.

Claim two recites "using a computer system to determine which one or more of the following actions will be taken based on said optimal or near-optimal assignment of said plurality of points to said plurality of tracks:

Sending a warning to aircraft or a ground or sea facility..."

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Mark Hellner at telephone number 571 272 6981.

/Mark Hellner/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3663